Supply of free Inhalers to asthma patients

3136. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to initiate any special programme to supply free inhalers to asthma patients across the country;

(b) if so, whether the same can be done in a phased manner and by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There no such proposal.

SARS cases in Hong Kong and South East Asia

3137. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE :

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA :

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that new pneumonia virus which is behind the outbreak of a mysterious respiratory disease called Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has been identified in Hong Kong and some parts of South East Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its indications and symptoms;

(c) whether the disease is spreading its tentacles very fast to other parts and threatening to be a world pandemic; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to insulate the country from SARS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Canadian scientists working in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) including those from Centre for Disease Control, Atlanta, USA have identified the genome of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus. The virus has been named Urbani Strain of Corona Virus (associated with SARS) in honour of Dr. Carlo Urbani the WHO physician who defined SARS but unfortunately died of the same disease. The main symptoms